

Emmeline de Mooij, *Oxytocin*  
21 March– 20 April 2013  
Private view Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 6.30 – 8.30pm

*LEGION TV* is proud to present Emmeline de Mooij's first solo exhibition in London. *Oxytocin* presents a new body of works, including a photographic wall-based installation, a series of framed digital prints and a publication made in collaboration with *LEGION TV*.

The central element of *Oxytocin* is a wall-based installation made from a large, single digital print and overlaying pieces of fabric. In addition to the large print de Mooij has framed a series of digital prints. The prints comprise of an image of a concrete floor painted pink, a handmade wooden candleholder covered in shiny transparent plastic and a box of antidepressants that lay on top of an image of a woman weaving. Both the digital prints and wall-based installation contain dreamy, atmospheric colours and tones that offer up strange or disparate layers of information that invite potential narratives.

Two key aspects take shape in this body of work. The first refers to a fictitious method of psychotherapy devised by de Mooij based on an imagined healing effect from working with crafts. This therapy is intended to cure what de Mooij says are often referred to as 'western diseases' such as depression, obesity and panic disorder. De Mooij's therapy considers such diseases to be caused by sensory deprivation. These 'diseases' lead to a syndrome de Mooij calls 'The Isolated Head', which causes an enormous build-up of pressure on the skull, resulting in headaches. Touching simple, tactile materials with one's hands and body while manually creating objects stimulates neglected areas in the brain and body, triggering a renewal of the senses. Upon successful completion of this therapy, one very literally regains their sense of self in the world.

The second aspect of *Oxytocin* takes de Mooij's own experience of motherhood. The works here have been made during her pregnancy and her first months as a mother. She sees this time as a period 'in residence' in her own home, a period of harsh training in patience and self-sacrifice through performing the rhythmic actions required for the care of a newborn. This recent work references the rare mental and physical state caused by a cocktail of various hormones that seem to make everything more fluid - softening hip bones, leaking mother's milk, urine.

*Oxytocin* addresses a longing for interconnectedness, to overcome polarity and the ability to stand between pairs of opposites. Similarly, by addressing the profound transformations that take place in motherhood, de Mooij attempts to reconcile the hermetic female sphere of the domestic with the outside public world. Foundational to this work is the idea of healing, and the extraordinary sensation of transformation from the private individual self to a vital component in the life of something else.

Emmeline de Mooij (b.1978, Delft, the Netherlands) lives/ works Amsterdam, the Netherlands and New York, U.S.A. Recent projects and exhibitions include: 2013 nomination Prix de Rome, Daegu Photo Biennale, Korea (2012), Capricious Space, New York (2010).